

OTAC Agenda
October 20, 2011
Red Lion Hotel - Salem, Oregon
Reference documents from this meeting are posted at:
<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html>

DATE CHANGE: Next OTAC Meeting February 16, 2011

Welcome	Meta Loftsgaarden, NRCS Lynn Voigt, FSA	
Meta Loftsgaarden stated that we are keeping a close eye on the budget and are expecting a ten percent reduction in our technical allocation. It has been reported that the senate will have a version of the Farm Bill out by November 4, 2011 with an anticipated \$23 billion cut. Of that \$6 billion is anticipated to be cut from conservation programs.		
Introduction of Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Committee Members. The role of the FSA State Committee and the State Technical Committee	Lynn Voigt, FSA	Information and Discussion
<p>FSA State Committee Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that the FSA State Committee was in attendance. A presentation was given about FSA and State Committee's role. The State Committee operates as a policy making body in all the programs in which FSA works.</p> <p>Handout 1 – Oregon Technical Advisory Committee PowerPoint Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>Handout 2 – FSA State Committee Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>Handout 3 – FSA at work Across Oregon FY 2010 Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>The Secretary of Agriculture appoints the individuals who serve on the FSA State Committee. The State Committee members oversee the activities of the FSA, including carrying out the state agricultural conservation programs. Counter cyclical programs are have been targeted for reduction by the senate this year. It is expected a smaller pot of money will be available to a larger group of people.</p>		
OTAC Member Updates		Information
<p>Jim Cathcart, Oregon Department of Forestry –Second Forestry Summit will be November 16 and 17 in Roseburg. They will be discussing how things are going with the field trials.</p> <p>Chris Schreiner, Oregon Tilth – A shared position in partnership with NRCS has been extended through September 2014. Sara Brown, a conservation specialist, will continue to provide technical training to the field and outreach on the topic of organics and transitioning to organics. So far Sara has been to 15 states and trained over 500 organic producers.</p> <p>Notice to Hispanic or Women Farmers and Ranchers Reminder to OTAC members to get information about the Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers at this website: If you believe USDA improperly denied you farm loan benefits during 1981-2000, see farmerclaims.gov for information. Women and Hispanic Claims Program Website: https://farmerclaims.gov/FarmerClaims/farmer.doClaims process for Hispanic or Women Farmers Compensation for Claims of DiscriminationCompensation Por</p>		

[Reclamacion De Discriminacion](#)

[Resumen Del Proceso De Reclamaciones Para Mujeres Agricultoras O Agricultores Hispanos](#)

NRCS FY12 Approved Conservation Implementation Strategies	Loren Unruh, Tom Makowski, NRCS	Information and Feedback
<p>Handout 4 – Strategic Approach to Conservation</p> <p>Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>NRCS has been implementing the Strategic Approach to Conservation for the past three years. The goal of the approach is to ensure that NRCS investments are leveraged with partners and achieving strategic outcomes on the ground. DCs have been developing long range plans and resource-specific strategies to provide a strong background and rationale for agency and partner investments. For Fiscal Year 2012, NRCS offices proposed 66 projects for funding. Of those 50 were approved. The strategies were used to develop NRCS Oregon's budget for FY12. The key to this success was the partner connection. Approved implementation strategies were presented to OTAC for their information and feedback. Thanks to the partners for their backing on these projects.</p> <p>Points of Contact:</p> <p>Loren Unruh, (503) 414 3235; loren.unruh@or.usda.gov</p> <p>Tom Makowski, (503) 414 3106; tom.makowski@or.usda.gov</p>		
FY13 Implementation Strategy subcommittees and final request for committee members	Meta Loftsgaarden, NRCS	Committee list attached
<p>Handout 11 – Committee List</p> <p>Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>District Conservationists (DCs) from around the state will meet via teleconference to discuss the two to three year projects they are working on with OTAC members who have signed up to be on sub-committees. There will be one teleconference for all DCs and interested OTAC members for EACH category (crops, wildlife, forestry, etc.) Teleconferences will occur in December and January and probably last approximated 2.5 hours each.</p> <p>Point of Contact: Meta Loftsgaarden, (503) 414 3236; meta.loftsgaarden@or.usda.gov</p>		
Conservation Innovation Grants: Rain Harvesting Catchments	Jason Faucera, Clackamas SWCD	Information
<p>Handout 10 - Northwoods Nursery: Innovations in Agricultural Rainwater Catchment</p> <p>Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>This project was funded through the CIG in Partnership with NRCS who provided technical oversight. The cooperator is Northwoods Nursery (One Green World) in Molalla, Oregon.</p> <p>The Clackamas SWCD will host workshops in the future covering topics such as.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction in groundwater withdrawal with offset from rain water collection• Capturing treating and recycling greenhouse irrigation tail water• Demonstrating the use of large scale rain water harvesting <p>It is hoped that these workshops will aid in technology transfer to landowners and assist NRCS with integration of large scale rainwater harvesting with existing programs.</p> <p>Whitney Rideout, Oregon Association of Nurseries, introduced their newest publication: <i>Safe Procurement and Production Manual – A Systems Approach for Production of Healthy Nursery Stock</i>. This document was published by the Oregon Association of Nurseries in July of 2011.</p>		

Wetland Reserve Program GARC Rates	Loren Unruh, NRCS	Recommendation: The committee concurs with both the GRP and WRP Geographical Rate Caps as presented at the meeting and electronically.
<p>Handout 6 – Proposed LTP – Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) Geographic Area Cap Rates (GARCS) for FY 2012 Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html GARCS are used for easement compensation under NRCS's GRP easement program. These rates have been reviewed by OTAC.</p> <p>Handout 7 – LTP – WRP Easement Compensation Procedure Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html The GRACs are used for easement compensation under NRCS's WRP and WREP-FRPP easement program. A new procedure was used to divide up the geographical areas based on the NRCS common resource areas within major land resource areas. In the Willamette Valley and the SONEC these divisions were sent out for independent assessment and new rates assigned. All other regions of the state will keep the same rates as last year until such time as independent assessment can be made on them. The question was posed: Is OTAC comfortable with the shift in the process? Loren Unruh will provide OTAC with the revised WRP GARC rates via email. OTAC members are requested to send comments to Loren, loren.unruh@or.usda.gov by Friday, October 28th. No response to Loren will be considered concurrence. Loren fielded comments the week of October 31st.</p> <p>Handout 7 – WRP old Area Map Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>Handout 8 – WRP new Boundary map Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>Handout 9 – OR 2012 GARCS Procedures Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p>		
Lynn Voigt, FSA; Meta Loftsgaarden, NRCS		
<p>Lynn Voigt – Thanks for the opportunity to chair this meeting and thank-you to the state committee for their presence. We will be on a continuing resolution at least until November 15th. We hope to have a better idea the next time we meet as to what will happen in regards to the budget and what we will have to work with. Meta Loftsgaarden – On behalf of Ron thank- you very much and see you on February 16, 2012.</p>		

Attendees: Lynn Voigt, FSA; Meta Loftsgaarden, NRCS; CalLee Davenport, USFWS; Steve Dettman, Forestry Ecotrust; Kay Teisl, Oregon Cattlemen's Association; Michael Pope, Greenbelt Land Trust; Jerry Nicolescu, OACD; DC VanNetta, VanNetta Brothers; Sam Asai, FSA; Jason Smith, Bob VanderZanden, Vern Frederickson, FSA State Committee; Lois Loop, FSA; Chris Schreiner, Oregon Tilth; Bruce Taylor, OR Habitat Joint Venture and Defenders of Wildlife; Ruben Ochoa, OR Water Resources Department; Whitney Rideout; Oregon Association of Nurseries; Dalton Straus; Oregon Cattlemen's Association; April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress; Joe Holmberg; Oregon Tree Farm; Joel H. Salter & Karma Anderson, US EPA; Craig Rowland; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Ray Abriel, US Forest Service; Mary Lou Soscia, US EPA; Jim Cathcart, Oregon Department of Forestry; Kathy Ferge, Bill White, Loren Unruh, Laura Gay, Cory Owens, Tom Makowski, Cec Cullison, NRCS.